

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A catheter comprising:

a catheter shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, the proximal end including a bending section, the bending section comprising one or more spiral cuts in the catheter shaft, the bending section having a flexibility greater than the flexibility of the portion of the catheter shaft adjacent the bending section;

a balloon secured to the distal end;

a fitting secured to the proximal end, the fitting including a passageway in fluid communication with the catheter shaft; and

a fluid impermeable covering disposed upon the bending section to seal the bending section.

27. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 26, wherein the fitting is a luer fitting.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 26, wherein the spiral cut is formed with a selectable number of spiral sections.

30. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 26, wherein the fluid impermeable covering is shaped as a sleeve or a tube.

31. (Previously Presented) The catheter of claim 26, wherein the fluid impermeable covering is adhesively bonded to the bending section.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 26, wherein the fitting comprises a transition member connected to the proximal end, and wherein the transition member is structured to prevent unintended kinking of at least a portion of the bending section.

33. – 34. **(Canceled)**

35. **(Currently Amended)** A catheter comprising:

a fitting including a passageway;

a catheter shaft including a distal end and proximal end being coupled to the fitting, which is in fluid communication with the catheter shaft, the proximal end including a bending section comprising one or more cuts in the catheter shaft, the bending section having a flexibility greater than the flexibility of the adjacent portion of the catheter shaft; and

a fluid impermeable covering disposed to seal the one or[e] more cuts of the bending section.

36. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 35, wherein the one or more cuts are spiral cuts.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 35, wherein the fitting comprises a transition member coupled to the catheter shaft.

38. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 35, further comprising a balloon at the distal end of the catheter shaft.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 38, further comprising an inflation device coupled to the fitting for expanding the balloon.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The catheter of claim 35, wherein the fitting is a luer fitting.

41. (New) A catheter comprising:

a catheter shaft having a distal end, a proximal end, and a first cross-sectional diameter, the proximal end including a bending section, the bending section comprising one or more cuts in the catheter shaft, the bending section having a flexibility greater than the flexibility of the portion of the catheter shaft adjacent the bending section;

a balloon secured to the distal end;

a fitting secured to the proximal end and having a second cross-section diameter greater than the first cross-sectional diameter; and

a fluid impermeable covering disposed upon the bending section to seal the bending section

42. (New) The catheter of claim 41, wherein the one or more cuts are spiral cuts.

43. (New) The catheter of claim 41, wherein the fitting comprises a transition member coupled to the catheter shaft.

44. (New) The catheter of claim 41, further comprising a balloon at the distal end of the catheter shaft.

45. (New) The catheter of claim 44, further comprising an inflation device coupled to the fitting for expanding the balloon.

46. (New) The catheter of claim 41, wherein the fitting is a luer fitting.